



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 15, 2007

For immediate release

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CLOW VALVE WORKS QUICKLY TO CONTAIN OSKALOOSA SPILL

MEDIA CONTACT: Dave Perry at (515) 725-0419.

OSKALOOSA — The Clow Valve Company worked quickly Wednesday to contain a hydraulic oil spill at its Oskaloosa facility.

Clow Valve discovered the spill around 1:30 p.m. when a hydraulic line broke in the company's foundry. About 30 gallons of hydraulic oil flowed to a storm drain in the plant. The drain flows directly to a drainage ditch that receives the company's permitted cooling water discharges.

The staff at the plant stopped the cooling water discharges and reported the spill to the DNR at 2:00. Clow Valve worked with the Oskaloosa Fire Department to place absorbent booms in the drainage ditch. They also constructed a temporary earthen dam half-mile downstream of the spill. The company contracted with Hydro-Klean to remove the hydraulic oil and booms from the drainage ditch. Cleanup finished around 7 p.m. Wednesday.

"Because of the quick response of Clow Valve Company and its cooperation with local officials, its contractor and the DNR, the spill was able to be cleaned up with minimal impact to the environment," said Dave Perry, environmental specialist with the Des

Moines field office. “This spill shows how important it is to have plans in place ahead of time so that when an emergency like this occurs, action can take place quickly.”

Hazardous material spills must be reported to the DNR within six hours of discovery or occurrence. During normal business hours, contact your local DNR field office. Outside of normal business hours, call the DNR’s spill hotline at (515) 281-8694.

DNR field offices:

Manchester: (563) 927-2640

Mason City: (641) 424-4073

Spencer: (712) 262-4177

Atlantic: (712) 243-1934

Des Moines: (515) 725-0268

Washington: (319) 653-2135

Writer: Jessie Brown

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MONITORING DETECTS MTBE IN CITY OF MANNING WELL

MEDIA CONTACT: Matt Rhodes or Dan Stipe at (712) 243-1934.

MANNING — The City of Manning has voluntarily shut down one of its wells after testing detected two contaminants.

The testing found levels of MTBE (Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether) and TBA (Tertiary-Butyl Alcohol) in the well. MTBE is a gasoline additive. As MTBE breaks down, it can create TBA. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not established health guidelines or maximum contaminant levels for MTBE or TBA.

By shutting down the well, the city may have prevented the well from drawing in other contaminants that often follow detects of MTBE.

The DNR will continue to investigate possible sources of the contaminants.

“There currently aren’t any standards for these contaminants, but the city is being proactive by shutting down the well until we can locate the source of the contamination,” said Matt Rhodes, an environmental specialist in the DNR’s Atlantic field office.

Writer: Jessie Brown

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DNR NOTIFIES 230 MANURE APPLICATORS OF MAKE-UP TEST

MEDIA CONTACT: Jeff Prier at the Spencer DNR field office, (712) 262-4177.

DES MOINES – The DNR notified about 230 confinement site manure applicators this week that they have missed one of their annual training sessions during the last three years.

“If they miss a year of training, they need to pass the make-up test before a new certificate will be issued,” said Jeff Prier, the DNR’s coordinator for manure applicator certification. “Once the test is passed, they can renew the certificate by starting another three-year cycle of annual training or by passing another test.”

If they choose to become certified with training, they must complete training each year of the three-year certificate, he added.

Testing is available by appointment at each of the six DNR field offices:

- Northeast Iowa, Manchester, (563) 927-2640,
- North Central Iowa, Mason City, (641) 424-4073,
- Northwest Iowa, Spencer, (712) 262-4177,
- Southwest Iowa, Atlantic, (712) 243-1934,
- South Central Iowa, Des Moines, (515) 725-0268, or
- Southeast Iowa, Washington, (319) 653-2135.

Make-up tests, and training or a second test need to be completed and the application submitted to the DNR by March 1 to avoid a \$12.50 late fee. Training can be scheduled by appointment through county Extension offices.

Writer: Karen Grimes